

# Shaping Riverside and the Future of Housing

(Tell Us What Matters Most to You!)



## Neighborhood Conference Kiosk Cal Baptist University – May 31, 2008

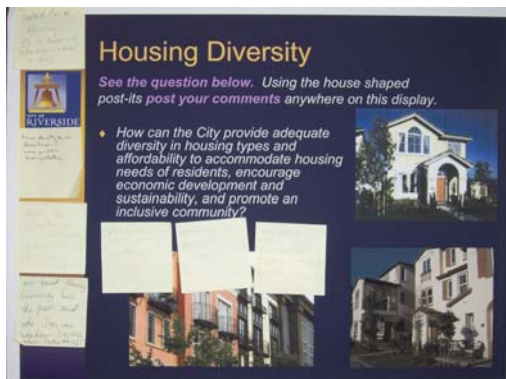
At the May 31, 2008, Neighborhood Conference held at Cal Baptist University the City Planning Division hosted a KIOSK display “Shaping Riverside and the Future of Housing (Tell us What Matters Most to You!)” The KIOSK included four display boards, each asking residents to write down on a “post-it” note their thoughts on a particular housing question related to the following:

- Housing Diversity
- Special Housing Needs
- Livable Neighborhoods
- Housing Assistance

The comments provided at the KIOSK are important because they tell us here at the City what matters most to you, the residents of the City. The comments will help shape future Goals and Policies for Housing as the City begins the process of updating the Housing Chapter (Element) of the General Plan.

## Housing Diversity Comments

**Question:** *How can the City provide adequate diversity in housing types and affordability to accommodate housing needs of residents, encourage economic development, and sustainability, and promote an inclusive community?*



### Responses:

- 1) “Work Force” Housing: It is happening elsewhere - take a look.
- 2) More density in downtown = more public transportation.
- 3) Make housing prices more affordable, offer various/different price options.
- 4) We need housing diversity for the poor and the seniors who have served their lives for us!
- 5) We need more family rental property.
- 6) We need more affordable housing.
- 7) We need more taxes for home owners that rent houses.

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## Special Housing Needs Comments

**Question:** How should the City provide adequate housing and supportive services for residents with special needs?



### Responses:

- 1) Have more facilities.
- 2) Make all new homes handicap accessible.
- 3) Offer more rebates and survey people to ask them about their needs.
- 4) Build complexes for disabled only, like they do for seniors.
- 5) City projects are affecting single-family home residents (low income apartments).
- 6) We need a community center in the University neighborhood
- 7) The City needs to eliminate eminent domain! (un-American)

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## Livable Neighborhoods Comments

**Question:** How should the City maintain livable neighborhoods that include well maintained housing, ample public services, and open space which provides a high quality living environment and instill community pride?



### Responses:

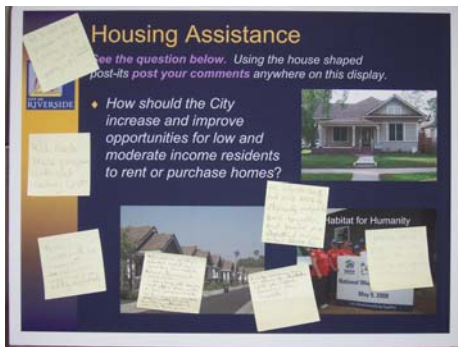
- 1) We need to spend more money providing youth outreach and youth programs.
- 2) Regular police rounds in the neighborhoods and regularly cleaning streets.
- 3) The people of Riverside are diverse, but there is an underlying race and class prejudice that stands in the way of real progress in the City.
- 4) Better looking rental properties.
- 5) Stop sending the criminals to live in our neighborhoods! Yes!
- 6) Home improvement incentives for all ages.
- 7) Maybe some financial help yearly! More code enforcement to up keep yards/streets.
- 8) Get the police to respect those of low income and homeless.
- 9) Develop outreach programs for underserved youths, instead of spending money on lavish beautification projects.

- 10) By periodically canvassing the neighborhood and seeing which vacant houses need attention.
- 11) To let people fix their own homes with volunteers and sponsors who can provide money.
- 12) When gang member arrested put mom and dad in cell with them.
- 13) We need a tire store (maybe a Firestone?), somewhere up on Van Buren and close to Wood.
- 14) Support center for neighborhood markets, cafes, and bars...
  - a. Case to case reviews for such things, but in favor for those
    - i. More life on streets
    - ii. More safety
    - iii. More pride

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## **Housing Assistance Comments**

**Question:** *How should the City increase and improve opportunities for low and moderate income residents to rent or purchase homes?*



### **Responses:**

- 1) The City, the County, and HUD need to physically, not politically, work together and build more apartments and low income homes for future owners that are poor.
- 2) Provide more properties to choose from with income requirements still required.
- 3) By providing low APR fixed, low down payment. Housing areas away from crime and drug neighborhoods.
- 4) We need more programs without waiting list.
- 5) We need more programs without a waiting list or at least a short waiting list!
- 6) Foundation of City-owned credit inc. promoting low credits.
  - a. Home improvement programs
    - i. City buys old houses and offers them with a low payment rate to low income residents.
    - ii. Additionally, provide building materials and services from P.W.
  - b. Make variances easy to obtain for developers, which plan affordable housing (more incentives!).

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**Community Development Department – Planning Division**  
**General Plan Housing Element Update**

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